

Weather

Forecast: Partly cloudy tonight and Thursday. Little change in temperature. Temp. Highest yesterday 49. Lowest this morning 24. Precipitation past 24 hrs. 0.

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MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1943

NO. 237

RAIL UNIONS DROP STRIKE PLAN

HOLDOUT GROUPS JOIN OTHERS IN RESCINDING CALL

Announcement By Stimson Comes Only 18 Hours Before Deadline Thursday.

Washington, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—The threat of a crippling war-time strike of railroad employees ended today when the three holdout unions assured the war department that they "will take no action that will imperil the successful prosecution of the war and that they will immediately cancel the strike order."

The unions' promise was announced in that language by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson after their presidents had spent 50 minutes in conference with Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, federal operator of the railroads.

Refuse to Follow

The unions—firemen and enginemen, switchmen, and conductors—had precipitated federal seizure of the railroads on Monday by refusing to follow the suit of 17 other rail unions in accepting presidential arbitration of their wage dispute.

With only 18 hours remaining before the deadline at 6 a. m. tomorrow, the three unions rescinded their strike call as the army prepared to keep the railroads going with soldiers if necessary.

Control Continues

The question immediately arose as to how long the government will retain control of the carriers. It was assumed that federal operation, technically speaking, would continue until the wage dispute is finally settled.

President Roosevelt said at his news conference yesterday that federal operation would last only until the emergency was over. He added that he wanted to restore the roads to private management as soon as it became certain there would be no strike.

Inasmuch as he already has embarked upon arbitration of the wage issue, however, it was believed he might wish to settle it finally before relinquishing federal control.

SPECIAL SESSION POSSIBILITY DIM

Salem, Ore., Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Possibility of a special session of the Oregon State Legislature faded today following a statement of Gov. Earl Snell to a Multnomah county delegation saying such a session would not answer Oregon's post-war problems.

Although the governor commended the delegation for its interest in Oregon's post-war era when more than 150,000 ex-servicemen are expected to be seeking work, he told them that the proposed special session would probably not result in a satisfactory adjustment of state tax problems.

British Sink Three Nazi Destroyers; Yanks Bomb Airdromes Near Rome

CITY IS SPARED WHEN MITCHELLS VISIT SUBURBS

Assault Coincides With Attacks On Northern Italy And German Raids.

London, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Strong forces of American medium bombers blasted German airfields in the northern and southern suburbs of Rome yesterday, an Algerian communique announced today, and a German broadcast reported a heavy death toll and considerable damage.

The basilica of San Paolo Fuori le Mura (St. Paul Outside the Walls), one of the five patriarchal churches in the southern outskirts of Rome, was hit and damaged seriously, the German DNB agency claimed.

Rail Yards Hit

The assault on the Roman airfields coincided with attacks by Mediterranean-based heavy bombers on strategic railway yards in northern Italy and a resumption of raids by British-based bombers on Germany after a four-night Christmas lull.

Two waves of Mitchell's heavily bombed two landing grounds at Ciampino, 12 miles south of Rome, setting fire to hangars and damaging six grounded aircraft, an Algerian dispatch said.

Mussolini Dead, IS MADRID CLAIM

Madrid, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—A non-Spanish diplomatic source said today that Benito Mussolini died in a clinic in Germany 10 days ago as result of "old stomach ulcers and mental derangement."

(The report was received with caution in London. Mussolini has been reported dead on several previous occasions.)

Following Italy's surrender, Mussolini was rescued by the Germans and put at the helm of the Nazi-sponsored "Fascist Republican government" of German-occupied Italy.

He had not been active, however, presumably because of a prolonged illness.

Ace of Luftwaffe Killed in Action

London, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Capt. Wilhelm Lamke, 23-year-old Luftwaffe fighter ace, who has been credited with the destruction of 125 allied planes, has been killed in action against Great Britain, according to a Radio Oslo broadcast recorded in London today.

Vatutin's Army Takes Korosten, Rail Center

London, Dec. 2.—(U.P.)—Gen. Nikolai Vatutin's army of the Ukraine captured the five-way rail junction of Korosten on the Leningrad-Odessa trunk line and more than 250 other towns and villages today, while to the southeast the Russians launched a new offensive in the Dnieper bend.

The Moscow communique announcing the capture of Korosten indicated the German defenses of the whole northwest Ukraine were falling apart and the Russians were sweeping triumphantly westward toward the pre-war Polish frontier some 50 miles away.

The new Soviet drive in the nose of the Dnieper bend overran the suburbs of Zaporozhe on the west bank and a number of other places, including the island of Khortitsa, the communique reported.

Far to the north, the Baltic front army of Gen. Ivan C. Bagration smashed at the gates of semi-enclosed Vitebsk, upper White Russia Nazi bastion, capturing Lovdva, eight miles to the northwest, and a number of other strong points.

BRITONS TO HEAD SEA, AIR UNITS IN COMING INVASION

London, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Allied invasion command neared completion today with the announcement that two Britons—Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay and Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory—had been appointed naval and air commanders-in-chief respectively.

Another in the alternate series of announcements in London and Washington revealed that Eisenhower's deputies for the naval and air phases of the European invasion would be British veterans renowned in their fields and tempered by long experience.

Ramsay, an amphibious expert since early in this century, supervised Allied landings in Sicily and the Salerno beaches of Italy, and took a prominent role in the plan of the entire Mediterranean operations.

Leigh-Mallory has shouldered a large share of the responsibility for the organization of Britain's fighter offensive for the past two years, and is an expert in the synchronization of fighting services. He laid out the aerial operations incident to the Dieppe attack.

Balanced against the delegation of the two key posts to Britain were Eisenhower's appointment as supreme commander and the assignment of high aerial posts to Lt. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz and Maj. Gen. James H. Doolittle.

F.D.R. HAS HEAD COLD; ORDERED TO STAY IN

Washington, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—The White House announced today that President Roosevelt is suffering from a head cold and will remain in his residential quarters today.

His physician, Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, said the president has no fever, but he thought it best for him to stay away from his offices today.

JAP INTERNMENT SATISFACTORY IS SPANIARDS' WORD

Washington, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—An investigation by Spanish diplomatic officials of conditions in camps where disloyal Japanese have been interned, such as Tule Lake, Calif., has revealed a "very satisfactory" situation and a report along this line will be made to Tokyo, a responsible diplomatic source said today.

The investigation was undertaken at the request of the Japanese government.

May Speed Exchange

The satisfactory report, it is hoped, will expedite negotiations for a future exchange of Japanese nationals in this country for Americans held in the far east.

Japan halted negotiations for the third exchange, in which the Swedish liner Gripsholm is expected to be used again, until Spanish authorities had made an investigation. The action was inspired by disorders at Tule Lake and widespread criticism of the handling of the Japanese.

ONE MAJOR STRIKE LEFT IN COUNTRY

Washington, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Secretary of Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., said today that the anticipated "all-out attack" against the enemy will be "the greatest attack in history" and require tremendous quantities of fighting equipment.

This equipment is "the kind that war bond money buys," he said in a radio address in connection with the fourth war loan drive for \$14,000,000,000 in January.

His broadcast was addressed primarily to owners, managers and employees of the nation's retail stores who, Morgenthau said, "are among the treasury's best salesmen in our war bond campaigns."

Ted P. Gamble, national director of the treasury's war finance division, speaking on the same program, said that drive plans call for sale of \$5,500,000,000 worth of bonds to individuals.

Tarzan's Third Mate Files Divorce Plea

Hollywood, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Tarzan's third mate sought a divorce from Johnny Weissmuller today on grounds of extreme cruelty.

Mrs. Weissmuller, the former Beryl Scott, also sought a share of the \$200,000 she claims the former swimming champion earned during their marriage by swinging from tree tops on movie sets.

They were married at Garfield, N. J., Aug. 20, 1939, and separated "for the final time" Oct. 20, Mrs. Weissmuller said.

SHIPS AND PLANES COOPERATE TO NIP PERIL TO CONVOYS

Axis Blockade Runner Also Destroyed In Bay Of Biscay Action, British Word.

London, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—A British task force, guided by U. S. navy scout planes, sank three German destroyers and a blockade runner in the Bay of Biscay early this week, in a two-day air-sea battle.

London, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—British warships and planes, in a smashing follow-up to the destruction of the Scharnhorst, have sunk three German destroyers and a homeward-bound Axis blockade runner in the Bay of Biscay, a communique announced today.

"Some other" destroyers were damaged, the joint announcement of the admiralty and the air ministry said, thus plugging what may have been a German attempt to resume surface raids on Allied convoys pouring men and arms across the Atlantic for the coming invasion of western Europe.

The sudden reappearance of German destroyers in the Bay of Biscay, coupled with the emergence of the Scharnhorst from its Norwegian hideout last week end, was interpreted by some sources as evidence that the Nazi command had decided to risk its shrinking fleet in a desperate attempt to throw the invasion off schedule.

The task previously had been entrusted to submarines and planes, but their apparently total defeat left only German surface warships to deal with Allied convoys.

From French Ports The destroyers presumably came from ports on the French west coast, which rims the bay.

The two-sentence communique gave no date for the sinkings, but indicated they constituted two operations. British casualties, if any, also were not given.

INVASION NEEDS BONDS BACKING

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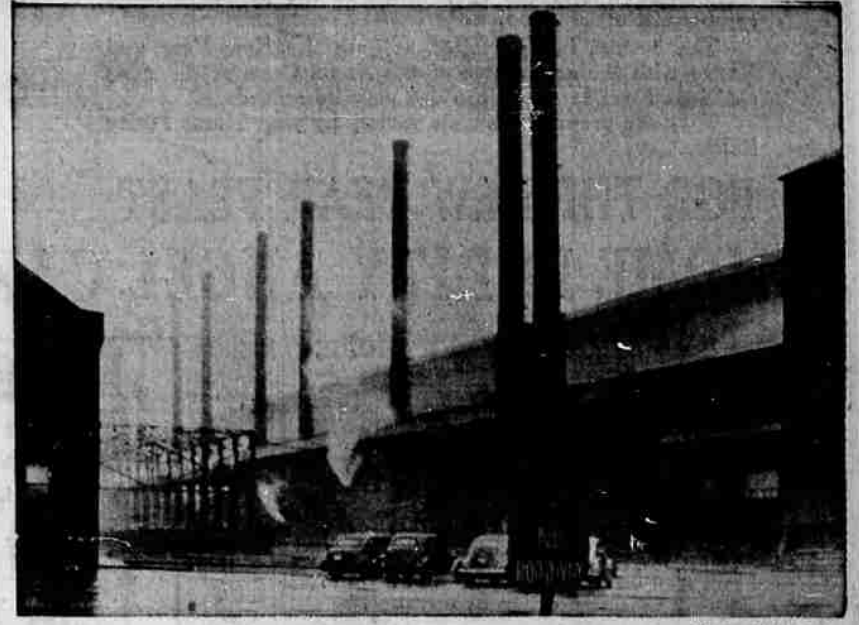
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Wake Commander Writes His Son

Burlingame, Cal., Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Lt. Col. James Patrick Devereux, commander of the heroic marine garrison on Wake Island, has written his 10-year-old son from a Japanese war prisoners' camp in Shanghai assuring him that "everything is going quite well here."

The letter was dated June 22, Devereux still signed the rank "major," indicating he was unaware of his promotion to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Steel Plant Idle During Walkout



Republic Steel open hearth plant at Cleveland remains smokeless as steelworkers fail to head FDR plea to return to work, pending arbitration.

Japs Plan Mighty Offensive In 1944, Spokesman Reveals

San Francisco, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Japan will open a "mighty offensive" against Anglo-American military power in the Pacific and Asiatic theaters of war during 1944, Sadao Iguchi, spokesman for the Japanese Board of Information, told his nation in a broadcast reported today by Tokyo radio.

"The third year of the war," Iguchi said, "will see Japan combining the victorious achievements of the past two years for the launching of an all-out offensive to drive the last vestige of the American-Anglo influence from East Asia."

Tokyo radio's summary of Iguchi's speech was recorded by United Press.

Allied Gains Slight

Iguchi said the allies, despite "huge sacrifices" extending over a period of a year and a half, "have only been able to retake but one hundredth of the territories Japan took in half a year."

"In spite of the Anglo-American nations' boasting that 1943 was the year they would undertake the counter offensive against the Axis nations, they have shown no notable gains."

"In the first year of the war, Japan swept like an avalanche over enemy territory in east Asia, and in the second year she has achieved unparalleled political and economic victories."

"Starting with the independence of Burma, she has constructed a greater east Asia in a sphere of mutual prosperity and cooperation. She has constructed in the political, economic and cultural sense an invincible sphere."

CHURCHILL GOING TO SUNNY CLIME

London, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill is "now able to transact business fully" and is leaving the place in the middle east where he was stricken with pneumonia for an undisclosed destination, it was announced today.

"I have not at any time relinquished my part in the direction of affairs, and there has not been the slightest delay in giving decisions which were required of me," Churchill said in a message published at No. 10 Downing street, his official residence.

He himself gave the assurance that he now was able to handle all of his duties.

"I feel a good deal better than at any time since leaving England, though of course a few weeks of sunshine is needed to restore my physical strength," his message said.

JAGGERS DIVORCED

Hollywood, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Stage and Screen Actor Dean Jagger was awarded a divorce today from Antoinette Jagger after he complained of her "romantic interest in another man."

VANPORT HOUSING PROGRAM HALTED AS NEED DECLINES

Vanport City, Ore., Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—One indication that Portland's war boom had passed its peak was confirmed today in the federal housing authority announcement that the 19,000 unit construction program of East Vanport City had been stopped on orders from Washington.

Since the peak of war employment was estimated to have passed in the final quarter of 1943 and since more than 1,000 housing units are available in the Portland area, it was questionable whether the East Vanport homes would be completed.

Following a conference here sometime in January between Rear Admiral Howard L. Vickery of the maritime commission and officials of the national housing authority will announce a decision on the East Vanport area.

If a reduction in Portland war industries results from the proposed January conference and from the six-day work week in the Portland area shipyards, it was believed certain that work on the housing project would not be completed.

Ground for the \$48 unit capable of housing more than 5,000 workers was scheduled to be completed next Jan. 15. At the present time, half of the homes have been roofed.

Paul Smith Waits Front Assignment

Admiral Halsey's Headquarters, South Pacific, Wednesday, Dec. 29.—(U.P.)—Marine 2nd Lt. Paul C. Smith, editor-in-chief of the San Francisco Chronicle, is at this base awaiting assignment, probably to a forward area, the navy revealed today.

Smith resigned a commission as a navy lieutenant commander in the Washington Press relations office to enlist as a private in the marines. He later won his commission at officers' training school.

SIDE GLANCES

By TRIBUNE REPORTERS

Frank Purl feeling a bit weary and contemplating the idea of writing up his own obituary in advance.

Lucille Lenox deciding, after 10 loaded buses had left Roseburg without her, to travel by train.

Gene Thorndike sighing over the business of a bank with too much money.

Lt. Gordon MacCracken describing the accuracy and range of American artillery without giving away any military secrets.

U. S. Marines Land Again on New Britain

